

NGC News

NGC Releases Tokens and Medals Census

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NGC Certifies Extremely Rare China Kirin 1884 Uniface Spelter Coins

Extensive research and metallurgic analysis aided NGC in certifying a set of five trial strikes.

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Revisiting Missing Edge Lettering Presidential Dollars

Missing Edge Lettering error coins exist for each of the first 15 coins in the Presidential Dollar series, from presidents Washington through Buchanan.

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NGC Registry News

New world sets have been added to the NGC Registry. It's not too early to start building your sets for the 2015 NGC Registry Awards.

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NGC Grading On-site at FUN

Stop by the NGC table to drop off your submissions at the Summer FUN Show in Orlando, Florida.

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NGC Accepting Submissions at Baltimore Expo

NGC will be accepting submissions for all regular service levels at the Whitman Baltimore Expo, July 16–18.

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NGC Ancients: A.D. 238 - A Year of 7 Rulers



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During the revolutionary year of A.D. 238, the Rome Mint issued coins for no less than seven men and boys who ruled the Roman Empire.
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Counterfeit Detection: Australia 1917P Gold Sovereign

NGC graders recently identified a fake 1917 gold sovereign with the "P" mintmark of the Perth Mint in Australia.

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USA Coin Album: The Kennedy Half Dollar - Some Observations and Recollections (Part 2)

In 1970 I was not yet reading coin publications, and I had no mentors in the hobby, so it came as quite a puzzle to me that I was not able to find a 1970-dated half dollar in circulation.

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From the NGC Archives: 1798/7 Draped Bust Dime

The Draped Bust Dime was a scaled-down version of the silver dollar, which debuted in 1795.

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Chinese Coins: Buy the Book and the Coin

By Peter Anthony

Reference books are an essential part of building a collection of modern Chinese coins. A real collection is the result of educated choices, but a pile of unidentified coins is little more than a hoard.

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Heritage to Sell Legendary Rudman Collection of Mexican Coins

On Aug. 13, Heritage Auctions will present the Isaac Rudman Collection of Mexican Coins, Part I, a set entirely certified by NGC. As an avid participant in the online NGC Registry, Rudman has built NGC Registry sets to showcase these and other coins from his phenomenal collection.

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NGC Numismatist at ANA Summer Seminar

Grader John Schuch II will present a mid-level course at this year's ANA Summer Seminar.

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NGC Releases Tokens and Medals Census

Posted on 5/22/2015

NGC has added the Tokens and Medals Census to its suite of online research tools. The new tool offers collectors and dealers an unprecedented opportunity to evaluate the rarity of tokens and medals from around the world.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) has released a Tokens and Medals Census with comprehensive population data for virtually all types graded by NGC. The Tokens and Medals Census, which is available for free on NGCcoin.com, provides collectors and dealers with an unprecedented opportunity to evaluate the rarity of tokens and medals from around the world.

This powerful research tool lists the total number of examples certified by NGC for each type, variety, designation and grade. Updated weekly, it can be used to help determine which types, varieties and grades are the most common and which are the rarest.

NGC's Tokens and Medals Census has categories for popular series such as Hard Times Tokens, Civil War Tokens, Admiral Vernon Medals, Chinese Medals, Conder Tokens, German Goetz Medals, Swiss Shooting Medals and more. To view all of the categories, visit NGCcoin.com and click on "Census" under the NGC Research menu.

Tokens and Medals Census



CIVIL WAR STORE CARDS - NEW YORK

MS | PF

Year/Mint	Den	Variety	Design	Find it on eBay	Total	PrAG	G	VG	F	VF	40	45	50	53	55	58	60	61
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-1a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSBN	Shop		18						2	1	1	5	1		1
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-2a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSBN	Shop		5					1					1		
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-2a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSRB	Shop		1												
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-3a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSBN	Shop		1												
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-4a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSBN	Shop		9									3			1
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-4a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSRB	Shop		3												
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-4b BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MS	Shop		1												
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-5a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSBN	Shop		11				2	1	1	1		1	2		
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-5a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSRB	Shop		2												
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-6a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSBN	Shop		6						1		1	1	1		
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-6a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSRB	Shop		4												1
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-7b BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MS	Shop		8												
1863 ALBANY	NY	F-10A-8a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSBN	Shop		1												
(1861-65) ALBANY	NY	F-10A-8a BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MSRB	Shop		1												
(1861-65) ALBANY	NY	F-10A-9d BENJAMIN & HERRICK	MS	Shop		2												
1863 NORWICH	CT	F-345aA-1d OVER 1C CITY OF NEW YORK	MS	Shop		1												
1864 ALBANY	NY	F-10B-1a P.V.FORT & CO., FRUIT	MSBN	Shop		5				1					2			
1864 ALBANY	NY	F-10B-1a P.V.FORT & CO., FRUIT	MSRB	Shop		4												
1864 ALBANY	NY	F-10B-2a P.V.FORT & CO., FRUIT	MSBN	Shop		2												1
1864 ALBANY	NY	F-10B-2a P.V.FORT & CO., FRUIT	MS	Shop		1												
(1861-65) ALBANY	NY	F-10C-1a JOS. MCBURNEY	MSBN	Shop		11									1	1		
(1861-65) ALBANY	NY	F-10D-1a N.Y.C. R.R. EX. TRAIN	MSBN	Shop		14									1	2		4

Click image to enlarge.

“The release of the NGC Tokens and Medals Census significantly increases the information available to collectors and dealers of these pieces,” says Richard S. Montgomery, president of NGC. “This resource will not only allow for more informed buying and selling decisions, but will also create numerous research opportunities in this important field of numismatics.”

Nikki Robinson, NGC Tokens and Medals Grader, adds: "For many years NGC has been the leader in the certification of tokens and medals. The new Tokens and Medals Census expands upon our commitment to provide the best and most comprehensive services for collectors of these pieces."

NGC grades more token and medal types than any major third-party grading service. For a complete list of tokens and medals that are eligible for NGC certification, visit [NGCcoin.com/tokens](https://www.ngccoin.com/tokens).

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NGC, NCS and PMG Announce Major Expansion in China

Posted on 6/8/2015

CCG's continued growth is marked by considerable expansion in China. The new developments reflect CCG's long-term commitment to the Chinese market.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), Numismatic Conservation Services (NCS) and Paper Money Guaranty (PMG) have entered their next phase of expansion in China with several major developments.

The three companies, which are independent members of the Certified Collectibles Group (CCG), have extended their Official Submission Center agreement with Guangzhou National Standard Numismatic Collection Grading Co., Ltd. (Guangzhou GB). Since 2009, Guangzhou GB has helped collectors and dealers in China submit to NGC, NCS and PMG.

NGC, NCS and PMG have also added four new Official Submission Centers in cities throughout China in order to expand access to their expert and impartial services to collectors and dealers in other regions of the world's most populous country.

Shanghai Yintai, a distributor for China Gold Coins Incorporation, and 11 Coins will serve as Official Submission Centers in Shanghai. Beijing Jinxin De Yi Trading Co. and Xi An Tang Quan JinCang Co., Ltd. will serve as Official Submission Centers in Beijing and Xi'an, respectively.

"The extension of Guangzhou GB's agreement and the appointment of these four companies as Official Submission Centers will enable NGC, NCS and PMG to better serve collectors and dealers in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, Xi'an and elsewhere in China," says Steven R. Eichenbaum, CEO of CCG. "All five companies are highly respected and are eager to grow the market for collectible coins and paper money."

In July, NGC, NCS and PMG will open a new office in a luxurious high rise building in the prestigious Xintiandi district of Shanghai. The office will be operated by the recently formed company, NGC Shanghai Business Information Consulting Co., Ltd., NGC's wholly owned Chinese subsidiary.

This new office will host more frequent on-site NGC grading events as well as on-site PMG grading and NCS conservation events. NGC's next on-site grading event is scheduled for June 15-26 at its old Shanghai office. It will be followed by an on-site PMG grading event in mid-July and on-site NGC grading and NCS conservation events in late August.

"NGC, NCS and PMG have pledged to provide the best possible service to collectors and dealers in China," adds Eichenbaum. "These important developments will significantly further our long-term commitment to the Chinese market."

NGC, NCS and PMG Official Submission Centers in China

Guangzhou

Guangzhou National Standard Numismatic Collection Grading Co., Ltd
Room 1202, East Tower, Tianyu Building, No.753, Dongfengdong Road
Guangzhou, China. Post Code: 510080
Phone: 020-87319218 or 020-87319228
Email: GBNGC@126.com
Website: GBNGC.com

Shanghai

China Gold Coin Shanghai Yintai Monopolized Store
No.330 East Jianguo Road
Shanghai, China
Phone: 021-63855208 or +86+4008801360
Email: yintaijinbipj@163.com
Website: yintaijb.com

11 Coins

B66, New Block 2nd Floor
No.600 Ju Men Road
Huang Pu, Shanghai, China
Phone: 186-0211-5995 or 021-63025000
Email: jocou@11coins.com
Website: 11coins.com

Beijing

Yi Jin Online

Room 601, 6 F, De Sheng Zhi Ye Plaza,
No.26, Huang Si Street, Xi Cheng,
Beijing, China
Phone: 010-59181966
Website: yjzx.com

Xi'an

Xi An Tang Quan Jin Cang Co., Ltd.(Tang Jin Ge)
He Xin Coin and Stamp Market, Dong Nan Huang Cheng, Xin Cheng Plaza
Xin Cheng, Xi An, Shan Xi, China. (Tang Jin Ge)
Phone: 029-87374808 or 181-61861079

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United States

NGC Submissions of the 2015 US Mint Annual Uncirculated Dollar Coin Set

Posted on 6/8/2015

*NGC will offer a special pedigree for coins from the US Mint's Annual Uncirculated Dollar Coin Set. **Special submission instructions must be followed to qualify for the pedigree.***

The 2015 Annual Uncirculated Dollar Coin Set goes on sale June 16, 2015 from the [United States Mint](#). This set includes four 2015-P Presidential Dollars (Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson), one 2015-D Native American Dollar and one 2015-W Burnished Uncirculated American Silver Eagle.

NGC will recognize coins received in the original mint packaging with the pedigree ANNUAL DOLLAR COIN SET. Sets received within the first 30 days of release will be eligible for the Early Releases or First Releases designations, which will be printed on the NGC certification label along with the ANNUAL DOLLAR COIN SET pedigree. For a list of Early Releases/First Releases cutoff dates, [click here](#).

To receive the ANNUAL DOLLAR COIN SET pedigree, [special submission instructions must be followed](#).

Submission Instructions:

- Coins must remain in the original US Mint packaging. Sets do not need to be submitted in sealed US Mint shipping boxes.
- Select the **Modern** tier or higher and select **Special Designation / Label** and check either **Early Releases** or **First Releases**. Also check the "Other" box and write **ANNUAL DOLLAR COIN SET**. Visit the NGC website for

Early Releases/First Releases [cut off](#) dates. Special Designation / Label must be selected for the ANNUAL DOLLAR COIN SET pedigree even if Early Releases or First Releases is not desired or if coins are received after the cutoff date for those designations.

- Please note that all coins from the set must be graded. You cannot specify that only certain coins be graded.
- The default label will be NGC's blue Early Releases label, blue First Releases label or standard brown label, as applicable.
- If you would like Mint packaging returned, select "Return Mint Packaging" in section 3 of the NGC Submission Form.
- Please note that NGC's First Day of Issue designation is available for bulk submissions only.

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646). For bulk submission rates, contact [Scott Heller](#).

Collectors Society paid members can submit their coins directly to NGC. Not an NGC Collectors Society member? Paid memberships start at just \$39/year. [Join today](#).

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NGC Certifies Extremely Rare China Kirin 1884 Uniface Spelter Coins

Posted on 6/9/2015

Extensive research and metallurgic analysis aided NGC in certifying a set of five trial strikes.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC) has certified a set of extremely rare uniface trial strikes of the 1884 Kirin, China coins. Pedigreed to the famous collections of W. H. Woodward and Eduard Kann, these trial strikes (or “splashers”) were purchased by the “NC Collection” in 1976 for the then-significant price of \$10,000. After extensive research in conjunction with Chinese numismatic expert Bruce Smith and metallurgic analysis, NGC has authenticated this set of five trial strikes.



1884 Kirin Pattern Set of Uniface Spelter Strikings



Standard Issue 1885 China Tael

This set was previously displayed by Champion Auctions at its Special Numismatic Display during the August 2014 Hong Kong show and Champion Auctions has plans to tour the set in China later this year.

The trial strike set has been studied in great depth by Smith, who has written an article on this piece that is reprinted in its entirety below.

WU TA-CH'ENG AND THE ANCIENT DRAGON COINS OF 1884

by Bruce W. Smith

Determining which coin was China's first struck coin depends on the definition of the term. The Chinese style coins of Tibet made in the 1790's and early 1800's and the Moslem style coins of Sinkiang made in the 1870's were struck by hand, without machinery. The 1856 Shanghai taels, the Old Man and other early dollars of Taiwan, were made on a crude lever press or drop press operated by a winch. The Chekiang struck cash made at the Paris Mint in 1866 was only a sample, made overseas and never circulated in China. The first Chinese coins produced in China by modern steam powered machinery were the 1884 Kirin dragon coins. These coins, in values of 1, 3, 5 and 7 ch'ien or mace, and one tael, are decorated with long, very thin dragons (almost like snakes with legs) typical of those seen in art of the Han Dynasty, two thousand years earlier. According to Eduard Kann, the designer of these unique coins was Wu Ta-ch'eng.

Wu Ta-ch'eng (1835-1902), also known as Wu Ch'ia-chai; Wu Heng-hsuan and Wu Ch'ing-ch'ing (Kann's Wu Chin-chin), a native of Soochow, was a prominent calligrapher, antiquarian, coin collector and government official. Receiving the chin shih degree in 1868, in 1870 he was sent to Wuchang, Hupeh as secretary to Li Hung-chang. In 1880 he was sent to Manchuria as part of a government effort to

improve defenses along the border with Russia. In 1881 he began the establishment of a modern, machine equipped arsenal at Kirin, which was completed in 1883. In 1886 he was appointed governor of Kwangtung province, and later, in 1892 became governor of Hunan. He compiled numerous books on bronzes, jades and seals, and a major work analyzing some 5,700 ancient, pre-Ch'in characters found on bronzes and coins. His biography can be found in Hummel's "Eminent Chinese of the Ch'ing Period" and in Ting Fu-pao's encyclopedia of Chinese coins.

Due to a chronic shortage of copper coins in Kirin, the Mongol, Hsi-yuan, who was military governor of Kirin from April 1883 to June 1888, reported in a memorial dated 9 January 1885, that he had sent 5,000 taels from the military rations fund to the Kirin arsenal to be made into silver coins of 1, 3, 5 and 7 mace and 1 tael as an experiment. They are described as having the date on one side and the weight in ch'ang p'ing taels on the other side. The ch'ang p'ing scale was the local weight standard, and is so called from the Chinese name of the city, Ch'uan Ch'ang (literally "boat factory"). The city was founded by the Manchus about 1670 as a shipyard to make boats to defend the area from the Russians. As the capital of Kirin Province it is also known as Kirin City, because it sits on the Kirin River (also known as the Sung Hua or Sungari).

Though Kirin at that time was a remote and backward area, the arsenal was staffed with workers from south China and managers with experience at other modern arsenals. The manager during the 1880's and 1890's was Sung Ch'un-ao, who had been trained at the Kiangnan Arsenal in Shanghai, and later worked at the Peiyang Arsenal in Tientsin. The assistant manager was Hsu Hua-feng, who was also trained at the Shanghai arsenal. An Englishman, H. E. M. James, visited the arsenal during the summer and fall of 1886, and left this account in his book, "The Long White Mountain":

"The principal thing of interest at Kirin is the arsenal, which has recently been established under the management of a gentleman named Sung, who received his training under foreigners in the arsenals of Tientsin and Shanghai. He was exceedingly courteous and friendly, and showed us over the place. It was very interesting to see a large establishment filled with foreign machinery, some German and some English, with boilers and engines and steam hammers, just such as one might see at Woolwich or Elswick, all erected and managed by Chinese without foreign assistance of any kind. It would open the eyes of those Europeans who think that western nations have a monopoly of mechanical and administrative ability. Most of the artisans were from Ningpo, and had also practical experience before they came. They can turn out anything, from a gingall

to a repeating rifle. The Chinese verdict on English compared with German machinery was that the latter worked more quickly and did delicate work better, but the English was more solid, and could always be depended upon for accuracy.”

Though work on the Kirin arsenal began in 1881, the arsenal was not completed until 1883. The North China Herald for 11 October 1882 reports that a stone wharf was being built at Newchwang (the port for Manchuria) to receive the heavy machinery, which was expected to arrive in November. This machinery could not have been set up and working till sometime in 1883. For this reason, the 8th Year (1882) Kirin tael (Kann 914) could not have been made at the Kirin arsenal – at least not in 1882.

The 10th Year (1884) coins, dated incorrectly in Kann as 1885, all have the same design, differing only in size and denomination. The obverse has a border of circles, each with a dot in the center. The tael has 48 such circles while the smaller coins have correspondingly fewer circles. In the center is a box containing 12 seal script characters stating that the coin was made in the Kirin arsenal in Kuang Hsu Year 10. Above the box is the seal script character “shou” (long life) in a circle, and to the left and right a long thin dragon stretches around the box. The reverse has a similar border of circles, with a smaller box in the center containing four characters in ordinary script, stating the weight according to the ch’ang p’ing tael. A Manchu word appears on each of the four sides of the box, with wispy clouds separating the words. The Manchu word on the left is “gilin” (Kirin); that on the right is “teherebuku” (ch’ang p’ing scales weight). The top and bottom words give the denomination, with the numeral above and the weight below. Amazingly, mintage figures for these coins survive in a memorial quoted in “Chi Lin Chu Pi” (1996): 1 tael 198 pieces; 7 mace 1,071 pieces; 5 mace 1,420 pieces; 3 mace 866 pieces; 1 mace 825 pieces. This totals only 2,000 taels indicating that the full 5,000 taels sent to the arsenal was not used.

This brings up the question of who made the dies for the 8th Year and 10th Year coins? There were no other modern mints in China then – the Canton Mint had not even been thought of yet. Engraving a steel die requires special skills and special tools, both of which were not readily available in China at that time. It is possible the dies were made in Germany or England, where the machinery was produced, but the coins look too crude to have been made from European dies. Another possibility is that a model of each coin was carved in relief in stone or copper, and from this an iron die was cast. Such a die likely wouldn’t last very long, but this could explain the die varieties which exist in the 1884 coins, despite their low mintage. Kann records 18 varieties of these 5 coins, not including the

spelter pieces. Or perhaps there was someone in China, perhaps in Shanghai, with the skills to make a die.

This brings us to the set of uniface spelter coins seen here. The technical term for such pieces is splasher, a word I have been unable to find in any English dictionary. Prior to the 19th century every working die was engraved by hand. It was time consuming and the die had to be examined from time to time to make sure the wording and designs were in the correct locations and proportions and that the carving was deep enough where it needed to be so. To check the die, the engraver would melt a small amount of lead or tin or zinc or some combination of these metals. If it was primarily tin and lead, it was called pewter; if it was primarily zinc or zinc with some alloy, it was called spelter. All of these metals and alloys have one thing in common – very low melting points, under 800 degrees Fahrenheit. A small burner on the work table would melt the metal and a small puddle of the metal would be poured on a piece of paper. While the metal was semi-liquid, the unfinished die would be pressed into the cooling metal and a relief impression would be revealed. The engraver could then examine the cooled “splasher” carefully to see where he needed to alter or strengthen his design. After each examination, the splasher would be thrown back into the pot to be melted, ready for its next use. Because the splashers are destroyed after examination, they are extremely rare among collectors. If any at all survive, there should only be a single splasher for each die, perhaps retained by the engraver as a souvenir. It is also possible that a set of die splashers would be prepared for examination by an official before the dies or the equipment were ready for actually striking the coins. All of the few known Chinese splashers appear to be unique.

We know that Eduard Kann had a set of uniface splashers of the Kirin 1884 coins. In a letter of 30 November 1950 to Howard Bowker, Kann indicates that he had just bought this set from Hans Schulman, who was breaking up the Woodward collection on behalf of Woodward’s widow. When Kann’s collection was sold, the Kirin splashers appeared in the first Kann sale in 1971, where incredibly they were broken up into 5 lots (Lots 1039-1043). What happened to them afterwards is unknown, but the most likely explanation is that someone purchased all five lots to keep the set together, and it ended up in the hands of Hong Kong collector Chang Huang. In 1976 he sold the set to NC Collection for US \$10,000. At that time the set was housed in a special box (probably made for H. Chang), but the box has been lost. It seems virtually certain that Chang’s set is in fact the one previously owned by Eduard Kann. The ten piece uniface set has piedfort (double thick) coins without reeding on the edges. This makes perfect sense because the splashers would not have been made inside a collar (which puts on the reeding), and the pieces could be struck in any thickness of metal desired. We will probably

never know whether this unique uniface set of splashers was made for presentation to a government official or was retained by the engraver – or perhaps by Wu Ta-ch’eng himself – as a souvenir of China’s first modern coinage.

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United States

Revisiting Missing Edge Lettering Presidential Dollars

Posted on 6/9/2015

Missing Edge Lettering error coins exist for each of the first 15 coins in the Presidential Dollar series, from presidents Washington through Buchanan.

One of the most infamous figures in the history of modern US coinage is William Gray. He is the former Philadelphia Mint Police Officer who, during a period of four years, stole thousands of Presidential Dollar Coins missing their edge lettering inscriptions from the Mint and sold them to coin dealers for over \$2 million. He has since been sentenced to prison, forfeited property and been ordered to pay restitution but an interesting legacy remains for coin collectors. The coins he stole are now well dispersed and highly collectable.

Missing Edge Lettering dollars are coins that skipped a step during minting. Legislation required that the date, mintmark, and mottos E PLURIBUS UNUM and IN GOD WE TRUST appear on the edge of the Presidential Dollar. To accomplish this, coins are passed through an edge lettering machine after their obverse and reverse are struck. Occasionally this step was bypassed and a coin was released without edge inscriptions. This occurred by accident, of course, but now it's known that coins in the marketplace also include those stolen by Gray — although there's no way to conclusively distinguish which are which.



Missing Edge Lettering error coins exist for each of the first 15 coins in the Presidential Dollar series, from Presidents Washington through Buchanan. The most common, by far, is the 2007 Washington Dollar. The next most common Missing Edge Lettering coins are, in order, John Adams, William Henry Harrison, Taylor, Fillmore and Van Buren. An exciting feature of these mint errors is how

accessible they are. Certified gem examples (MS 65) for most of these issues can be found for under \$100, although higher grade examples cost more.



Already collecting Missing Edge Lettering Dollars? Post your collection online beside other great collections in the NGC Registry!

From 2005 to 2010, coins sold in Uncirculated Mint Sets by the Mint had a distinctive satin finish and are designated as SMS (for “Special Mint Set”) by NGC. Several Presidential Dollars are known with Missing Edge Lettering in both regular circulation finish and the satin finish used for coins placed in Uncirculated Mint Sets, and some are known in only one finish. The most common satin finish coins without edge lettering are, by far, the John Quincy Adams and Madison dollars with over 1,000 pieces known. All other satin finish coins are scarce or rare, ranging from a couple hundred to just a handful of reported specimens — and only one satin finish example of the George Washington Dollar has been reported!

The scarcest coins of these first 15 Presidents in any finish are Jackson and Monroe, with only a few hundred known of each. Initially, these coins traded for huge premiums, but transactions don't reflect their relative rarity.

To date, no examples of the Lincoln Dollar, the last coin of 2010, have been reported with Missing Edge Lettering and no 2011 Missing Edge Lettering dollars have been reported. It was met with a good deal of enthusiasm when two examples of the Cleveland (1st Term) Dollar, the second coin released in 2012, were found without edge lettering ushering in a new phase of Missing Edge Lettering dollar collecting. This didn't materialize. To date only 22 examples have been reported. They can command prices of up to a few thousand dollars depending on their condition.

Additional Resources

Beware!

The edges of some Presidential \$1 Coins are filed down to appear to be missing edge lettering coins. They are altered coins and not the genuine article. [Click to learn more](#). Published March 2007.

Image Gallery

[See our comprehensive photographic overview of small dollar coins exhibiting a very popular type of error — Missing Edge Lettering.](#)

Published March 2010.

Additional Reading: Moving the Motto

Coins missing their edge inscriptions were the first US dollar coins since 1866 to lack the motto, "In God We Trust." Rather than calling them Missing Edge Lettering Dollars, some media outlets used the rather more incendiary term, "Godless dollars."

Accordingly, after error coins surfaced, the decision to move the motto to the coin's edge did receive criticism, perhaps most notably by former Alaska Governor and Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin, who blamed congress: "Who calls a shot like that? Who makes a decision like that?" But the initial proposal wasn't controversial. The 2005 Presidential \$1 Coin Act was approved by unanimous consent in the Senate and by an overwhelming majority in the House before being signed into law by President Bush.

Nonetheless, Congress enacted a fix relatively quickly. The 600+ page Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 formally updated Section 5112 of US Code Title 31, which includes all the general rules concerning coinage. It is now required that the motto appear on either the obverse or reverse of all coins. The Mint complied beginning with the first issue of 2009, the William Henry Harrison \$1, by moving "In God We Trust" to the obverse.

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NGC Registry News

Posted on 6/9/2015

New world sets have been added to the NGC Registry. It's not too early to start building your sets for the 2015 NGC Registry Awards.

Here at NGC, you, the collector, are our priority. You have asked, and we are listening. The variety and number of new NGC World Registry Sets we are building is quite exciting. If you have an idea for an NGC Registry competitive set, then let us know; we are happy to consider it.

It is never too early to plan for the 2015 annual awards deadline in December. Those new slot requests keep rolling in. Do you have other newly slabbed coins that need a home in the NGC Registry? Shoot us an email at registry@NGCcoin.com and let us know exactly what your needs are.

Here are the latest additions from the NGC Registry Department:

New Category:

- Netherlands - Antilles

New NGC World Sets ready for your coins:

- Bahamas: Gold \$50, 1967-Date, Proof
- Bahamas: Gold \$100, 1967-Date, Proof
- Bahamas: Gold \$150, 1973-Date, Proof
- Bahamas: Gold \$200, 1973-Date, Proof
- Bahamas: Gold \$250, 1979-Date, Proof
- Bahamas: Gold \$2500, 1974-Date, Proof
- Barbados: Gold Issues Type Set, 1975-Date, Complete
- China - Commemorative: Silver 5 Yuan, 2007-Date, Proof
- China - Commemorative: Gold 100 Yuan, 2004-Date, Proof
- Costa Rica: Gold Peso, 1864-1876, Circulation Issue, Complete

- Dominican Republic: Circulation Issues, 1844-1897, Complete
- Dominican Republic: Circulation Issues, 1937-Date, Complete
- Dominican Republic: Proof Issues, 1888-Date, Complete
- Ethiopia & Harar: Type Set, People's Democratic Republic, 1969-1984, Complete
- Great Britain - Pre-Decimal: Sixpence, 1728-1758 (George II), Circulation Issue
- Great Britain - Type Sets: Gold Double-Sovereign Type Set, 1820-Date, Circulation Issue
- Great Britain - Type Sets: George III Type Set, 1738-1831, Circulation Issue
- Hong Kong (British Rule): Cent, 1863-1941, Circulation Issue
- Hungary: Silver 500 Francs, 1989-Date, Proof
- Hungary: Silver 2000 Francs, 1996-Date, Proof
- Isle of Man: Half Crown Type Set, Cat Series, 1988-Date
- Isle of Man: Crown, Cat series, 1970-Date, Proof
- Mexico: Gold 1/10 Onza, 2005-Date, Proof
- Mexico: Gold 1/4 Onza, 2004-Date, Proof
- Niue: Silver \$2, Disney Characters, 2014-Date, Proof
- Portugal: Maria I, 1786-1799, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: Joao, Type Set, 1799-1826, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: Pedro IV, Type Set, 1826-1828, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: Miguel, Type Set, 1828-1834, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: Maria II, Type Set, 1833-1853, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: Pedro V, Type Set, 1854-1861, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: Luiz I, Type Set, 1862-1889, Circulation Issue
- Portugal: Carlos I, Type Set, 1890-1908, Circulation Issue
- South Africa - Republic: 5 Rand, 2000-Date, Prooflike
- South Africa - Republic: 1966 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1967 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1968 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1969 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1970 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1971 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1972 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1973 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1974 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1975 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1976 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1977 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1978 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1979 Proof Set

- South Africa - Republic: 1980 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1981 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1982 Proof Set
- South Africa - Republic: 1983 Proof Set
- Spain: Isabel II, Type Set, 1848-1864, Decimal Coinage, Circulation Issue
- Thailand: ½ ATT, 1874-1905, Circulation Issue
- Thailand: ATT, 1887-1905, Circulation Issue
- Thailand: 2 ATT, 1874-1905, Circulation Issue
- Thailand: Rama V, Type Set, 1897, Circulation Issue
- Thailand: Rama V, Standard Coinage Type Set, 1874-1910, Circulation Issue

If you're not familiar with the [NGC Registry](#), take some time to explore it and see the many collecting options that are available. It is completely free. If you have any questions, you may also click below for our help page:

[NGC COLLECTION MANAGER and REGISTRY HELP — Table of Contents](#)

Annual NGC Registry Award Update

If you have not yet received your 2014 NGC Registry award certificate(s), please shoot us an email or drop us a phone call at 1-800-642-2646. To ensure a timely delivery with all NGC correspondence, please ensure your information is up to date in your Collectors Society account.

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NGC Grading On-site at FUN

Posted on 6/9/2015

Stop by the NGC table to drop off your submissions at the Summer FUN Show in Orlando, Florida.

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins* at the [FUN Show](#), in Orlando, FL on **Thursday, July 9, 2015 until 5:00 p.m.** Regular submissions will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 11. **Saturday cut off times may change due to submission volumes.** NGC will be at booth 104.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the [Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder](#).

On-Site Services include :

Gold Special	\$40 per coin
Gold coins valued at \$3,000 or less (10-coin minimum).	
Value WalkThrough	\$65 per coin
Coins valued at \$3,000 or less.	
WalkThrough	\$100 per coin
Coins valued at less than \$100,000.	
Expedite WalkThrough	\$200 per coin
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued at less than \$100,000.	
High-Value WalkThrough	\$100 +1% NGC Price Guide** per coin
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued at \$100,000 or more. (**\$2,500 maximum fee per coin.)	

Show ReHolder **\$15 per coin**

A coin in a scratched, chipped or older-generation NGC holder is placed in a new Scratch-Resistant EdgeView Holder.

NCS CrossOver **\$10 per coin**

A coin in an NCS holder is [NGC Details Graded](#).

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Most coins submitted for on-site grading are returned within 24 to 48 hours, except for expedited services, which are completed within four hours.

NGC Show Representatives will also be accepting submissions for all service levels to be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. These include World services, Ancient Coin Services, Early Bird, Economy, Bulk, Special Designations, PHOTO PROOF® and more!

Special Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, 3-coin March of Dimes set, Silver Proof set, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- The \$5 CrossOver special does not apply for on-site grading.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

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NGC Accepting Submissions at Baltimore Expo

Posted on 6/9/2015

NGC will be accepting submissions for all regular service levels at the Whitman Baltimore Expo, July 16–18.

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels* at the [Whitman Baltimore Expo](#), at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, MD on Thursday, July 16 to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 18, 2015. **Saturday cut-off time may change due to submission volumes.** NGC will be at booth 462. All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more. Check with show representatives for details.



Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, March of Dimes 3-coin set, 2013 American Buffalo One Ounce Gold Reverse Proof, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- *Does not include 5-ounce coins.

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

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United States

NGC Ancients: A.D. 238 - A Year of 7 Rulers

Posted on 6/9/2015

During the revolutionary year of A.D. 238, the Rome Mint issued coins for no less than seven men and boys who ruled the Roman Empire.

Of all the eventful years in Roman history A.D. 238 is especially underappreciated. In this year the empire fell into political, social and military chaos when the senatorial elite took a stand against an emperor who had seized power by force. It was a brave act to be sure, but ill-conceived. It failed to reverse a trend of the 3rd Century A.D. in which the military was the driving force behind the throne.

Three years earlier, in A.D. 235, the emperor Severus Alexander (A.D. 222-235) had been murdered near the banks of the Rhine during a sluggish war against the barbarian Alemanni. Taking the helm in his place was Maximinus, an emperor often called Maximinus I “Thrax” due to his peasant, Thracian ancestry. He had been selected for that highest post after having risen in the army from a raw recruit to an officer.



Maximinus I "Thrax" - AE Sestertius

Maximinus is said to have been of extraordinary stature – about eight feet, six inches tall, and of remarkable strength. Taking into account this claim and his distinctive portrait, some modern observers suggest he probably suffered from some form of acromegaly. Not long after he became emperor, Maximinus raised

his son, Maximus, to the rank of Caesar.



Maximus (as Caesar) - AE Sestertius

Three years later, in A.D. 238, the elite of the empire had grown weary of Maximinus' soak-the-rich approach to fund-raising. Their response was desperate, and was unprecedented in Imperial history. It began when two extraordinarily wealthy Roman landowners from North Africa, a father and son known as Gordian I and II, staged a rebellion against Maximinus.



Gordian I – AR Denarius



Gordian II – AR Denarius

Despite support from the senate in Rome, their revolt was quickly and brutally crushed, ending with the deaths of the Gordiani and many of their supporters. Though the length of their reign is not known, it is said to have been just 21 or 22 days.

It was presumed that Maximinus would seek vengeance, so the senate appointed twenty of its leading members to run affairs in the meantime. Among these men, two were chosen as figureheads: the senators Balbinus and Pupienus, each of whom was awarded the title of Augustus (emperor). Pupienus was charged with organizing a military defense against Maximinus, and Balbinus was tasked with the governance of the capital.



Balbinus – AR Double-Denarius



Pupienus – AR Double-Denarius

Their joint reign was disorganized, chaotic and contentious, and during their 98 or 99 days as emperors they failed to gain the support of the people. Indeed, near the end of their reigns, in an act of desperation, they awarded the subordinate title of Caesar to the docile, 13-year-old grandson of the defeated Gordian I. This young man, who was supported by the Praetorian Guards in Rome, came to be known to history as Gordian III.



Gordian III (as Caesar) – AR Denarius

Meanwhile, Maximinus had led his battle-hardened legions into Italy, only to get bogged down in a siege of the city of Aquileia. Disease and disaffection soon spread through the camp of the besiegers and Maximinus was murdered along with his son, Maximus. Momentarily, the fate of Balbinus, Pupienus and their senatorial co-conspirators appeared to have been spared.

But in the aftermath the two continued their reckless behavior, allowing their discord to escalate. Soon afterward Balbinus and Pupienus were murdered by the Praetorian Guards, who promptly caused Gordian III to be hailed emperor in their place. The reign of Gordian III would last a comparatively long time for the era, from A.D. 238 to 244.



Gordian III (as Augustus) – AV Aureus

During these chaotic few months the Rome Mint was extremely active, striking coins for five men and two boys, each of whom held an imperial title. What's more, the dies are universally of high quality with the inscriptions being neatly cut, the portraits being engraved in fine style, and the physical production being of an unusually high caliber.

The series is readily collectible, even if some of the issues are expensive. The two common issues are of Maximinus I and Gordian III as emperors. Highly attractive examples of these, in silver, often cost less than \$100 each. Quite scarce are those of Maximinus' son Maximus and Gordian III – both as Caesar – and the co-emperors Balbinus and Pupienus. Nice examples of these typically sell for several hundred dollars each, and exceptional pieces bring more than a thousand. The most expensive pieces are those of Gordian I and II, with pleasant examples of their silver denarii and bronze sestertii typically fetching a few thousand dollars each.

Interested in reading more articles on Ancient coins? [Click here](#)

Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group, Inc.

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Counterfeit Detection: Australia 1917P Gold Sovereign

Posted on 6/9/2015

NGC graders recently identified a fake 1917 gold sovereign with the “P” mintmark of the Perth Mint in Australia.

The British sovereign is one of the world’s most famous gold coins. Named after an English gold coin struck until 1604, the modern gold sovereign has been issued by the United Kingdom since 1817. The obverse features a portrait of the British monarch while the reverse usually shows the iconic image of Saint George slaying the dragon by engraver Benedetto Pistrucci.

The first sovereigns were struck by the Royal Mint in London, but eventually other mints in the British Empire and, later, the British Commonwealth, would issue sovereigns. Sovereigns were struck by mints in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth in Australia; Bombay in India; Ottawa in Canada and Pretoria in South Africa. In 2013, a mint in Delhi, India, began to strike gold sovereigns, which makes it and the Royal Mint in London the sole present-day manufacturers of these coins.

Gold sovereigns weigh just under 7.99 grams and are struck in 22 carat gold (91.7% gold), which gives them an actual gold content of approximately 0.2355 ounces. Counterfeiters have long targeted gold sovereigns, not only because they have historically been a popular and valuable circulation issue, but also because certain rare dates carry significant numismatic premiums.

NGC graders recently identified a fake 1917 gold sovereign with the “P” mintmark of the Perth Mint in Australia. Although the Australia 1917P Sovereign is not scarce, the premium that collectors pay for these coins presents considerable opportunity for profit to a counterfeiter.



Counterfeit Australia 1917P Gold Sovereign
Click images to enlarge.

This forgery exhibits a couple of particularly noticeable problems. First, all of the fields have raised lumps, especially around the perimeter. These lumps can be easily seen under magnification around the obverse lettering and the date on the reverse. Second, the design elements on both sides, including the letters and date, are weakly defined, a telltale flaw seen on many spurious coins. This softness is obvious when this piece is compared to an authentic example.



Counterfeit Australia 1917P Gold Sovereign
Diagnostic: Weakly Defined Date
Click images to enlarge.

In addition, a depression in the center of the king's head is likely repeated on all fakes made by this counterfeiter. As a result, it can serve as a helpful, easy-to-find diagnostic. This depression, combined with the raised lumps and poorly defined design elements, makes identification of this counterfeit very straightforward.



Counterfeit Australia 1917P Gold Sovereign
Diagnostic: Head Depression
Click images to enlarge.

Interested in reading more articles on Counterfeit Detection? Click [here](#).

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USA Coin Album: The Kennedy Half Dollar - Some Observations and Recollections (Part 2)

Posted on 6/9/2015

In 1970 I was not yet reading coin publications, and I had no mentors in the hobby, so it came as quite a puzzle to me that I was not able to find a 1970-dated half dollar in circulation.

My very first numismatic periodical was the August 1971 issue of *COINage* magazine, and this solved many of my previously unanswered questions. I immediately began buying every issue from the newsstand, and a year or so later my parents presented me with a subscription. In the meantime, I discovered that my junior high school library had a subscription to *COINS* magazine, so I thereafter felt quite well versed in numismatic developments. I would not discover *The Numismatist* for another four or five years, applying for ANA membership at the end of 1977.



It was through one of the commercial magazines that I learned how the 1970-D half dollars had never been produced for general circulation, and I feared that this issue would remain a void in my blue coin folder. At about that same time I was completely surprised by the new 1971 half dollars, which had the same red edges as the dime and quarter. In addition, they displayed a smaller portrait of JFK and a much broader border than earlier dates.

The proposal to eliminate all silver from the half dollars and strike future pieces in the copper-nickel-clad composition of the lesser coins had been kicking around Congress for most of 1970, and it wasn't until the final day of that year that

legislation was passed. By that time, however, it was too late to strike 1970-dated halves of the new composition, and only those persons who had purchased Uncirculated or Proof Sets from the Mint were rewarded with the coveted 1970-D and 1970-S halves.

The half dollars of 1971 not only had a smaller hub reduction for the obverse, they also struck up quite poorly. Though lacking much academic knowledge of coins at the time, I was nevertheless a keen observer of the actual coins. It struck me in particular how the eagle's shield seemed to wrap around its body like a tee shirt, rather than stand out boldly as on the earlier dates. The hard copper-nickel-clad composition really devastated the half dollar, though the Mint later implemented design changes that provided for sharper strikes at the cost of much of the coin's artistry. The 1972 edition restored the obverse portrait and border to their former sizes, but the striking issue remained a problem until well into the 1980s.

The clad halves of 1971 and later circulated reasonably well in the San Francisco area, due primarily to their use in Reno and Las Vegas casinos. This was likewise the primary role of the Eisenhower dollar, and both coins were produced in circulating quantities until the casinos replaced them with tokens of their own issue. Anecdotal evidence indicates that halves and dollars were rarely seen in other parts of the country that lacked legalized gambling, and I don't recall seeing many halves in California after the mid 1980s. The Kennedy was effectively an obsolete coin by that time, but it took the US Mint another 15+ years to acknowledge that there was no further circulating demand for them.

The Bicentennial half dollar coined during 1975-76 was a handsome coin, and it circulated to the same extent as the other clad issues of the period. A lot of misguided persons hoarded them from circulation, however, and they began to disappear by the end of the decade. By that time I'd given up on collecting Kennedy halves from circulation, as I had with all other current issues. I simply purchased the annual Uncirculated and Proof Sets instead. The Mint's packaging machinery always seemed to scuff the shield's chief, but the Uncirculated coins were otherwise suitable.

The only date that caught my attention during those years was the 1977(P) half dollar. Following the mintage reports in weekly and monthly coin publications, it became evident to me that a very small number of these coins had been produced as of the fall. If no more were made, this date would prove to be another winner, like the 1950-D nickel and the 1970-D half dollar. It was then that I conceived the very unoriginal idea of becoming a speculator in this issue.

It was nearly impossible to get fresh rolls of particular coins at local banks, so

instead of taking this route I decided to pop in at the Old San Francisco Mint Museum. Its gift shop offered a little known product called the Souvenir Set. This consisted of one each of the coins of a particular mint, either Philadelphia or Denver. Also included was a medalet bearing the P or D mintmark. These sets were priced at around \$3 each, as I recall, and I purchased 20 of the 1977 Philadelphia set. It was about that time that coin publications began observing how low the production of 1977(P) halves had been, and it appears that the Treasury ordered an expanded production to thwart speculators such as myself. In the final months of the year, Philadelphia produced a bumper crop of half dollars, striking more than three times the number it would issue in 1978! This remains my one and only attempt at cashing in on a low-mintage coin, and I've had a disdain for all such speculations ever since.

David W. Lange's column, "USA Coin Album," appears monthly in The Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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From the NGC Archives: 1798/7 Draped Bust Dime

Posted on 6/9/2015

The Draped Bust Dime was a scaled-down version of the silver dollar, which debuted in 1795.

Two reverse types were used. The earlier design depicted a small eagle perched atop some clouds and encircled by a wreath. This later type actually features a rendition of the Great Seal of the United States of America.



Dazzling luster of a degree rarely seen on such an early US coin makes this magnificent dime an absolutely outstanding specimen. Despite its heavily worn and clashed dies, this delightful dime presents remarkable design detail, almost all of its stars being fully struck. This specimen is of the popular overdate variety having 16 stars on its reverse, a die also used for quarter eagles dated 1797. Such interchangeability of dies was not uncommon for these denominations. This extraordinary specimen is almost certainly the finest known.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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Chinese Coins: Buy the Book and the Coin

Posted by Peter Anthony on 6/9/2015

Reference books are an essential part of building a collection of modern Chinese coins. A real collection is the result of educated choices, but a pile of unidentified coins is little more than a hoard.

I was at a luncheon recently. An older gentleman at my table asked my profession. When I explained that I am a numismatic researcher, he immediately told me that he had a large “collection” of coins. As he continued it became obvious that his collection was really an accumulation of unidentified older coins. He didn’t know much about them except that they are silver. The conversation reminded me of the old saying, “Buy the book before the coin.” A bunch of coins without knowledge is just a hoard. It may be valuable, or not. A real collection is the result of intelligent, often educated choices. Books are an indispensable part of this process.

On that theme, here are a few books that I think will contribute to the education of anyone interested in modern Chinese coins. Some are only published in Chinese, but the numbers are in the familiar Arabic format so much of the meaning is not too difficult to glean.

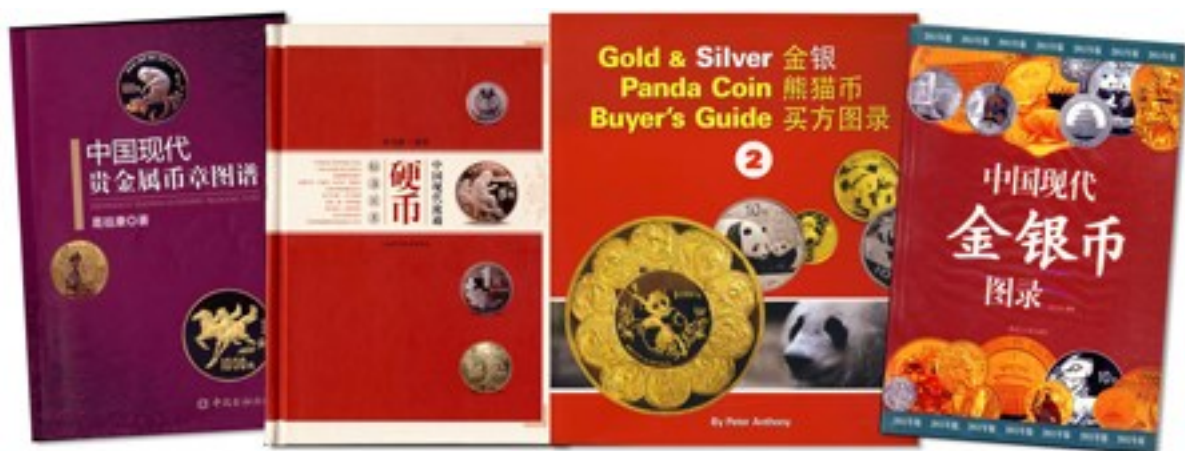
Perhaps the most widely used reference in the field is Zhao Li Cheng’s *Illustrated Catalog of Modern Chinese Gold and Silver Commemorative Coins*. The cover of this book is red. The trademark for *Red Book*, however, belongs to an American publisher, so the book cannot be advertised with that term. In everyday use among Chinese coin collectors, though, you can guess what it is called. The book is updated annually.

This work probably has the most comprehensive illustrated listing of modern precious metal Chinese coins and medals in print. It is organized by year, so the chapters are easy to navigate. The first coins of each year/chapter are always

Pandas followed by the Lunar series. After that it becomes more difficult to know the series name if you don't read Chinese, but all the photos and mintages are there.

Another reference work that receives annual updates is Mr. Ge Zukang's *Modern Chinese Gold/Silver Coins & Medals*. Mr. Ge is a well-known Chinese numismatic researcher and scholar. His excellent book is published in two parts. The first section features a good set of coin photos. Mintages, where known, are below the pictures. For some coins there is also a star rating system for rarity. These ratings are based on Mr. Ge's research and are easily worth the modest price of the book.

The second volume that Mr. Ge publishes each year is a price guide. This may be less comprehensible to English readers, but it is usually sold together with the first volume so readers can peruse it.



From left to right: Modern Chinese Gold/Silver Coins & Medals, Modern Chinese Coins in Circulation, Gold and Silver Panda Coin Buyer's Guide, Illustrated Catalog of Modern Chinese Gold and Silver Commemorative Coins.
Click images to enlarge.

Besides gold and silver commemoratives, China also issues copper-nickel, brass and aluminum coins for circulation. These are used in everyday commerce. Some of them are rare while some are struck in Proof condition and are highly collectible. They have a large and enthusiastic collector base within the People's Republic. The most widely used reference book for circulating coins is *Modern Chinese Coins in Circulation* by Mr. Sun Keqin. I've heard talk that an English translation of this book is on its way, but for now it is available only in Chinese.

Last, but hopefully not least, is the *Gold and Silver Panda Coin Buyer's Guide* by Peter Anthony. The English language version is a wide-ranging look at the very popular Panda series of coins and medals. It includes mintage numbers, population estimates, catalog numbers and photos for more than 600 Panda coins and medals. There are also stories to entertain and place the coins within their original cultural setting. A bonus chapter on Unicorn coins is included in the latest edition. The 256-page book, now in its second edition, is widely considered to be

the standard reference for the Panda series.

For anyone who wants to find value where others miss it, who wants to collect and not just hoard, who wants the fun and friendships and satisfaction that numismatics offers, books are essential. So go ahead, buy the book and the coin.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He is an analyst for the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.

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United States

Heritage to Sell Legendary Rudman Collection of Mexican Coins

Posted on 6/9/2015

On Aug. 13, Heritage Auctions will present the Isaac Rudman Collection of Mexican Coins, Part I, a set entirely certified by NGC. As an avid participant in the online NGC Registry, Rudman has built NGC Registry sets to showcase these and other coins from his phenomenal collection.

DALLAS, TX — Heritage Auctions has announced that it will present [The Isaac](#)

[Rudman Collection of Mexican Coins, Part I](#), one of the finest groupings of colonial Mexican coins ever assembled, in a series of auctions, with Part I of the collection offered this fall on Aug. 13, as part of its World and Ancient Coins auction at the American Numismatic Association (ANA) Convention in Chicago.

“Isaac is one of the greatest collectors of Latino/Caribbean coins, artifacts, documents, currency and fine art to ever live,” said Cristiano Bierrenbach, Vice President of Heritage Auctions. “His eye for quality and beauty is absolutely second to none and we expect collectors will be equally as thrilled as we at Heritage are that he’s decided to make his collection available. So many of Isaac’s collecting achievements will basically never be repeated again.”

The Mexico City mint represents the most historically important minting facility of the Americas, having existed for nearly five centuries since operations commenced in 1536. Under Spanish dominance, it was always the pioneering entity among its peers, as was fitting to the mint of the Viceroyalty of New Spain.

“At the ANA Heritage will offer, in an exclusive catalog, all of Rudman’s milled, or “bust,” gold issues, which span roughly 100 years starting in 1732,” said Bierrenbach. “It’s basically a complete date run of all denominations, from ½ to 8

Escudos of great Mexican coinage, including varieties.”

Taken in total, Rudman’s collection of Mexican coins is a relatively small part of his collection, but his incredible grouping of about 1000 coins carries an incredible value in excess of \$10 million. The collection includes all Mexican colonial issues, including Cobs, Bust and Royal coinage in silver and gold.

“I’ve had the great pleasure over the last 40 years of assembling this Mexican collection,” said Rudman. “I believe I was able to put together an exceptional group of coins, perhaps the most complete – certainly highest quality – of any collection of colonial Mexico. Now it’s time for my coins to move on to new collectors, who I’m certain will appreciate their beauty and historical value, and who will get the same enjoyment out of them that I have over the last four decades. In presenting the coins to fellow collectors, choosing Heritage was the natural step. No one has the collector reach, bidding platform and capabilities of Heritage Auctions.”

Further highlights of the collection will include: a full set of the issues of the first, and very rare, 1732 date, including both varieties of the doubloon (8 Escudos) and a superb Mint State 1 Escudo; a complete set of the “Cara de Perro” 1747 issues, all in outstanding condition and of unmatched overall quality; an incredible array of the extremely rare “Rat Nose” 4 Escudos, which represents 85% of the current population of the type certified by NGC, including two specimens tied as the finest certified for the entire type in AU55 preservation; an unprecedented offering of the extremely rare minor Charles IV transitional issues of 1789-1790 showing the previous bust of Charles III; truly outstanding type representatives of all denominations in the series, including two Choice Mint State Philip V doubloons and a Mint State example of the very rare 1770 Rat Nose doubloon.

“In addition, in what may be the icing on this amazing cake, the Rudman collection contains a full set of all confirmed issues of the War of Independence provisional Guadalajara mint,” said Bierrenbach, “including the Norweb example of the legendary 1812 4 Escudos. The latter represents only the 2nd public offering of the type in over 70 years.”

While Heritage has not yet named the specific venues, additional parts of the collection will be presented in throughout 2016.

An avid participant in the online NGC Registry, Rudman has built NGC Registry sets to showcase these and other coins from his phenomenal collection. Click [here](#) to review Rudman's NGC Registry Sets. Learn more about the [NGC Registry](#).

This is a guest article. The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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NGC Numismatist at ANA Summer Seminar

Posted on 6/9/2015

Grader John Schuch II will present a mid-level course at this year's ANA Summer Seminar.

Summer Seminar is a once-a-year opportunity for numismatic scholarship and camaraderie that offers students a varied selection of week-long courses designed for discovery or continued study. For many students, Summer Seminar is a life-changing event; it has catapulted the careers of many of the nation's most respected collectors, authors and dealers, and inspired young numismatists to become hobby leaders.

For more than 40 years, Summer Seminar has featured classes to suit virtually every collector's hobby needs. Your classes are true seminars: students gathered in small groups with everyone an active participant. You'll learn from instructors who are recognized leaders in their fields, and from the collective experiences of fellow students. Rarely do students or instructors attend just one Summer Seminar. More than 70 percent of them come back time and time again for the education, friendships and camaraderie.

To learn more about summer seminar, visit the [information page on the ANA's website](#).

The following course is instructed by a numismatist from NGC:

Grading United States Coins, Part 2

This mid-level course is intended to sharpen grading skills through continuous, hands-on group and individual exercises, with instructor feedback on each coin. Students identify their strengths and weaknesses as they apply grading methods used by industry experts. The course enables students to gain a better understanding of current grading service philosophies and how they evolved in the marketplace. Copper, silver and gold specimens are covered, with emphasis on About Uncirculated through Uncirculated. Prerequisite: Successful completion of “Grading United States Coins, Part 1” or permission from the instructor is required. This class is limited to 24 students.



Session 1, Course 3

Instructors include **John Schuch, II**, NGC Grader

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